

SATO et al.
Serial No. 09/855,547

Atty Dkt: 914-129
Art Unit: 2173

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An agent display apparatus displaying a personified agent for making the agent selectively perform a process, comprising:

a first interface controlling display of said agent and inputting a request from a user;
a second interface controlling an application program;

an action script storing portion storing an action script describing a procedure of controlling said first interface and said second interface;

a searching portion searching in said action script storing portion for the action script, said searching portion searching for said action script in accordance with the request input from said first interface, said action script searched for following the described procedure, and said first interface controlling display of said agent to start said application program; and

an executing portion executing to control said application program through said second interface.

2. (Original) The agent display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said executing portion includes a demonstrating portion controlling said first interface and making said agent demonstrate an operation procedure.

3. (Original) The agent display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first interface includes an agent displaying portion controlling an operation of said agent for display;

a voice outputting portion outputting a voice output from said agent; and
a voice inputting portion inputting a voice of the user for extracting said request.

4. (CANCELLED)

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5. (Original) The agent display apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising an accessing portion making an access to an electronic broadcast program list, and an extracting portion extracting a program interesting the user with reference to the broadcast program list accessed by said accessing portion, wherein said executing portion includes a controlling portion controlling said second interface for making said application program televise the program extracted by said extracting portion.

6. (Original) The agent display apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said extracting portion includes a storing portion acquiring and storing information on a program viewed by the user from the broadcast program list accessed by said accessing portion, and a program extracting portion extracting a keyword from the information on the program stored in said storing portion for extracting a program which interests said user in accordance with said extracted keyword with reference to said broadcast program list.

7. (Previously Presented) An agent display method displaying a personified agent for making the agent selectively perform a process, comprising the steps of:

- a first step of controlling display of said agent and inputting a request from a user;
- a second step of controlling an application program;

a step of searching for an action script describing a procedure of controlling said first step and said second step, said step of searching including searching for said action script in accordance with the request input in said first step, said action script searched for following the described procedure, and said first step controlling display of said agent to start said application program; and

- a step of executing to control said application program through said second step.

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8. (Original) The agent display method according to claim 7, wherein said step of executing said action script includes the step of making said agent demonstrate an operation procedure.

9. (Original) The agent display method according to claim 7, wherein said step of controlling display of said agent and inputting the request from the user includes the steps of controlling an operation of said agent for display, outputting a voice produced by said agent, and inputting a voice from the user and extracting said request.

10. (CANCELLED)

11. (Original) The agent display method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

accessing an electronic broadcast program list; and
extracting a program which interests the user with reference to said accessed broadcast program list, wherein said step of executing said action script includes the step of making said application program televise said extracted program.

12. (Original) The agent display method according to claim 11, wherein said step of extracting the program which interests said user includes the steps of

acquiring information on a program viewed by the user from said accessed broadcast program list, and

extracting a keyword from the information on said accessed program for extracting a program which interests said user in accordance with said extracted keyword with reference to said broadcast program list.

13. (Previously Presented) A storage medium capable of being read with a computer storing a program for executing an agent display method of displaying a personified agent for

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making the agent selectively perform a process, said agent display method comprises the steps of:

- a first step of controlling display of said agent and inputting a request from a user;
- a second step of controlling an application program;

- a step of searching for an action script describing a procedure of controlling said first step and said second step, said step of searching including searching for said action script in accordance with the request input in said first step, said action script searched for following the described procedure, and said first step controlling display of said agent to start said application program; and

- a step of executing to control said application program through said second step.

14. (Original) The storage medium storing an agent display program according to claim 13, wherein said step of executing said action script includes the step of making said agent demonstrate an operation procedure.

15. (Original) The storage medium storing the agent display program according to claim 13, wherein said step of controlling display of said agent and inputting the request from the user includes the steps of

- controlling an operation of said agent for display,
- outputting a voice of said agent, and
- inputting a voice of the user and extracting said request.

16. (CANCELLED)

17. (Original) The storage medium storing the agent display program according to claim 16, wherein said agent display method further comprises the steps of:

- accessing an electronic broadcast program list; and

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extracting a program which interests the user with reference to said accessed broadcast program list, and said step of executing said action script includes the step of making said application program televise said extracted program.

18. (Original) The storage medium storing the agent display program according to claim 17, wherein said step of extracting the program which interests said user includes the steps of acquiring information on a program viewed by the user from said accessed broadcast program list, and

extracting a keyword from the information on the accessed program for extracting a program which interests said user in accordance with said extract keyword with reference to said broadcast program list.

19. (New) An agent display apparatus for displaying a personified agent, comprising:
a first interface for controlling display of the agent and for receiving a request from a user;

a second interface for controlling an application program that controls operation of an audio/visual appliance;

an action script database for storing an action script, the action script being configured when executed to control the external appliance via the first interface and to coordinate display of the agent relative to operation of the appliance via the second interface;

a search engine responsive to the request from the user for searching the action script database for the action script; and

an action script execution engine which executes the action script.

20. (New) The agent display apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first interface comprises a voice input portion which recognizes a voice request from the user.

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21. (New) The agent display apparatus of claim 19, wherein the action script is configured whereby the coordinated display of the agent relative to the operation of the appliance comprises an audible report by the agent concerning the operation of the appliance.

22. (New) The agent display apparatus of claim 19, wherein the appliance is a television.